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Letter dated 20 May 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 8 May 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2154 (2014), by which it created the Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage, to be awarded to those military, police and civilian United Nations personnel and associated personnel who demonstrated exceptional courage in the face of extreme danger while fulfilling the mandate of their missions or their functions in the service of humanity and the United Nations. I was requested to submit to the Council, in due course, the modalities for determining how the recipients of the Medal would be nominated and chosen, on the basis of the criteria set forth in the resolution. In my letter to the President of the Council dated 16 December 2014 (S/2014/946), I advised the Council of the intended modalities for the award of the Medal, including the criteria to be applied, my intention to award the medal at a ceremony on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers and that the eligibility period was to begin on the day after 8 May 2014, the date of the adoption of resolution 2154 (2014).

In the absence of a response from the Security Council, I have proceeded with the implementation of resolution 2154 (2014) along the lines of my letter of 16 December 2014 and requested nominations from all United Nations field missions. In parallel, the Secretariat has conducted consultations with interested Member States, as a result of which I propose to amend two aspects of my original submission: the date of the award ceremony and the period of eligibility for the first award. With regard to the ceremony, I intend to move it to coincide with the peacekeeping summit to be held in September 2015, in the context of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, to elevate the profile of the Medal and, by extension, to honour the work of the military, police and civilian United Nations personnel and associated personnel in the service of humanity.

In view of the small number of nominations received to date, I also intend to extend the period of eligibility for the award of the Medal to 1 January 2007, which marks the beginning of my tenure as Secretary-General. This will make it possible to document evidence of remarkable courage in circumstances that meet the criteria established under resolution 2154 (2014) and open up the possibility of considering additional worthy candidates to be honoured for exceptional courage, as exemplified by the extraordinary bravery of Captain Mbaye Diagne.

I wish to confirm that the design and other modalities for the award of the medal set out in my letter of 16 December 2014 would remain unchanged.

(*Signed*) BAN Ki-moon

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